

REMARKS

Claims 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41 have been amended. New claims 42-43 has been added. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 15-25 and 31 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 34-43 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview granted on July 29, 2008. The amendments herein reflect suggestions made by the Examiner to overcome the prior art. Applicant believes that the interview did much to advance the application toward allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 34-35 and 37-38, and 40-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ladd et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,336) in view of Uppaluru (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,001).

Claim 34 has been amended to recite

An apparatus for enabling a voice browser to render an audio segment, the voice browser for receiving a document including contextual information and an associated text string to be rendered as audio, the apparatus comprising:

a database referencing a plurality of audio segments, each audio segment of the plurality associated with an identifier that uniquely identifies that audio segment;

a prompt mapping configuration comprising a plurality of prompt classes, a plurality of occurrences of at least one text string, and a one-to-one association between each of the occurrences and a corresponding audio segment identifier,

...

a prompt audio object configured to match a text string from the document received by the voice browser to one of the plurality of occurrences of the at least one text string by searching only within the prompt class,

wherein the match, through the association of text string occurrences to audio segment identifiers, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence,

and to cause rendering of an audio segment, referenced in the database, that is identified by the audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence.

Thus, amended claim 34 specifies that the process of audio rendering a text string from a document received by the voice browser employs two structures: (1) a mapping configuration associating text string occurrences with audio segment identifiers (e.g., "NHL" with either identifier 102 or 203, depending upon prompt class); and (2) a database associating audio segment identifiers with audio segments (e.g., "NHL" with either "National Hockey League" or "Newhall Land"). See Fig. 9 (below); ¶ 78.

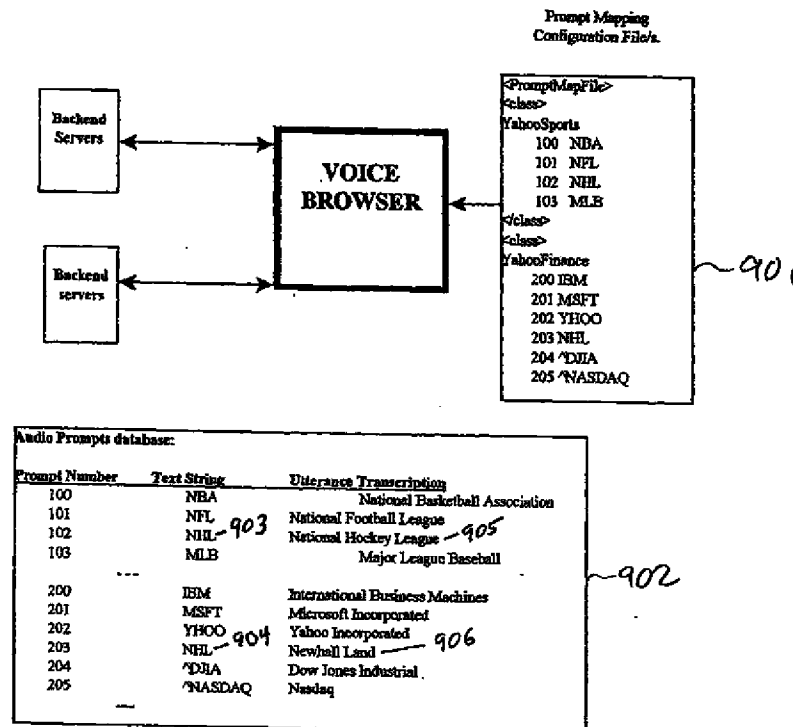


Figure 9

The invention recited in claim 34 uses those structures to: (1) match the received text string to a text string occurrence found within the mapping configuration, wherein the match results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence; and (2) cause rendering of an audio segment, referenced in the database, that is identified by the audio segment identifier. *See Fig. 9 and ¶ 78.*

The advantages of this configuration are highlighted in the specification of the instant application:

From a backend server 102 point of view, the difference in the content provided to voice browser 101 with and without the dynamic typed text to prompt mapping mechanism 410 can be illustrated as shown in FIG. 10. FIG. 10 illustrates the difference in the content provided to voice browser 101 with the dynamic typed text to prompt mapping mechanism 410 illustrated as box 1001, according to an embodiment of the present invention and without the dynamic typed text to prompt mapping mechanism illustrated as box 1002.

Note that both the examples 1001 and 1002 shown in FIG. 10 may be rendered in the same form. The first problem conventionally noticed without the voice browser prompt-mapping mechanism 410 is the need for all backend servers 102 to know what are all the available audio prompts and the corresponding identifications. The second conventional disadvantage is the inefficiency in mapping that arises out of not utilizing the prompt-class mechanism 410. Lastly, the isolation of the audio prompts from backend servers 102 according to an embodiment of the present invention allows the voice browser 101 to tailor the audio rendering based on user/property/language.

The following section discusses the various advantages of the approach employed by an embodiment of the present invention. In a simple example where text feeds from different sources (e.g. different content providers) is presented to voice browser 101 through a voice portal, it is difficult to keep track of the latest set of audio prompts that are available to voice browser 101 for rendering.

An interesting example for this dynamic prompt mapping of text is stock tickers. When a new company is added, without the dynamic prompt mapping mechanism, all backend servers 102 that provide stock quote/ticker related information should update their code/data with the new entry in order to present the audio clip. With the dynamic prompt mapping mechanism according to an embodiment of the present invention, [only] the voice browser's prompt mapping file(s) (in XML format) need to be updated once, and the effective audio rendering of this new company name is immediately achieved.

¶¶ 79-82 (emphasis added); Fig. 10 (below).

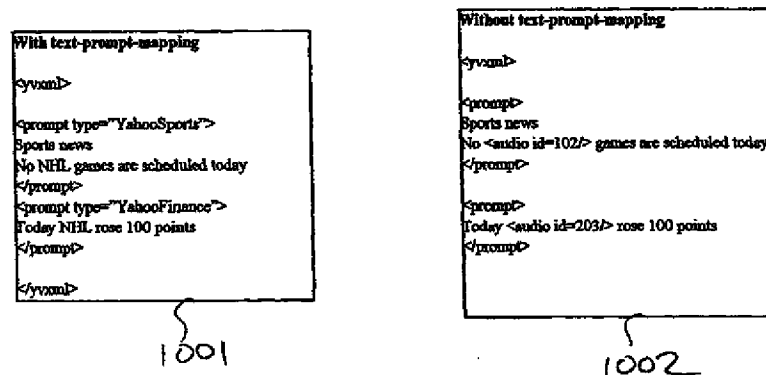


Figure 10

Ladd does not disclose or suggest searching within a prompt class, among other limitations of claim 34. In the Office action, the Examiner recognized that Ladd does not address matching similar text strings to an audio segment based on a prompt class. Further, neither Ladd nor Uppaluru, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest

match[ing] a text string from the document received by the voice browser to one of the pluralities of text string occurrences by searching only within the prompt class,

wherein the match, through the association of text string occurrences to audio segment identifiers, results in identification of an audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence,

and [causing] rendering of an audio segment, referenced in the database, that is identified by the audio segment identifier associated with the matched text string occurrence

as recited by claim 34. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 35, 38, and 41 have been amended similarly to claim 34, and Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are patentable over the cited references for reasons similar to those given above.

Claims 36 and 37 depend from claim 35, and Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the cited references for reasons similar to those given above for claim 35.

Claims 39 and 40 depend from claim 38, and Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the cited references for reasons similar to those given above for claim 38.

Claims 36 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ladd et al in view of Uppaluru and further in view of Saylor et al (U.S. Patent: 6,501,832, hereinafter "Saylor"). Claims 36 and 39 depend from claims 35 and 38, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 36 and 39 are patentable over the cited references for reasons similar to those given above for claims 35 and 38.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 324212009600.

However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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